

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

60TH Biennial Convention



JUNE 2 – 4, 2023
THE DESMOND HOTEL
ALBANY, NEW YORK

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2023Convention		Room
Tentative Schedule		
Friday	Office	Suite 156
12:00 - 1:30	Board meeting with lunch	22 High Street
12:30-2:30	Registration	High Street Courtyard
2:00-4:30	Workshops	High Street Ballroom
5:00-6:30	Welcome reception	High Street Ballroom
6:30-7:30	Registration	High Street Courtyard
8:00-10:30	Sales/Exhibit Room	28 High Street
8:00-11	Hospitality Suite	Room M14
Saturday		
8:00 - 11:30	Registration	High Street Courtyard
8:30 - 10:00	Workshops	
	How to Become a More Effective Moderator	24 High Street
	How Can We Expand our Impact by Working Together?	Town Hall
	Membership: Everything, Everywhere, All at Once	Shaker Room
	How to Strengthen our Visibility with Social Media	26 High Street
10:15-11:30	Workshops	
	What’s Changed in Elections Procedures?	24 High Street
	Successes, Missteps & Next Steps in our journey to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion!	Town Hall
	Can Detainees in our Jails Have Better Access to Elections?	Shaker Room
	How Do We Engage More College Students?	26 High Street
12:00-1:30	Lunch with speaker: Carolyn Maloney, former US Congresswoman	6,8 King Street
1:45 – 5:00	Plenary Welcome to Albany from Albany Chief City Auditor, Dr. Dorcey Applyrs	Town Hall
5:30-6:30	Reception	Fort Orange Courtyard
6:30-8:30	Dinner with awards	Fort Orange Ballroom
8:30-9:30	Evening caucuses	
	Concurrence on Waste	Shaker Room
	Rural Caucus	Suite 112
	Discussion with Ayo Atterberry, LWVUS Chief of Culture	Suite 120
	Program Planning (will cover both studies)	Town Hall
9:30-10:30	Evening Caucuses	

	Reducing our Carbon Footprint	Shaker Room
	LWVNYS Proposed Budget	Suite 120
8:00-10:30	Sales/Exhibit Room	28 High Street
8:30-11	Hospitality Suite	Room M14
Sunday		
7:30-8:45	Breakfast	24-26 High Street
9:00-12:00	Plenary Speaker: Ayo Atterberry, LWVUS Chief of Culture	Town Hall
11:30-12:30	Sales/Exhibit Room	28 High Street
12:30-3:00	New board meeting with lunch	22 High Street

Featured Speakers



The Power of Communication: Turning Values into Action

Friday, June 2nd, 2 PM

Libby Post, President of Progressive Public Affairs and Government Relations at Communication Services

If you don't communicate your message, someone else will do it for you—and it won't be what you want to say. This workshop will give you the tools you'll need to effectively communicate your message using the League's core values and emotional branding. Together, they make a potent combination for getting your message out.

Libby Post is a lobbyist and political consultant with an expertise in strategic political communications. As president of Progressive Public Affairs and Government Relations, a subsidiary of Communication Services, she lobbies on behalf of the state's network of animal shelters. She is also currently the lobbyist for the Albany Newspaper Guild. She is a regular commentator of WAMC's The Roundtable and an adjunct professor at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.



ERA Now: Let's Get It Done

Saturday, June 3, 12 PM

Carolyn Maloney, Former Congresswoman

The Equal Rights Amendment was passed in 1972 with a seven-year limit for ratification. It quickly gained ratification from 22 of the 38 required states in the first year. The deadline was extended but 38 states were still not reached by 1982. Since then, the ERA has been introduced in every session of Congress, and in 2020, the 38th state ratified the amendment. Now, it's time for Congress to remove the deadline and we're close to making

that happen. Former Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney will discuss the status of the national ERA and the ways that the League can ensure its certification.

First elected to Congress in 1992 during the ‘Year of the Woman,’ Carolyn B. Maloney is a nationally recognized progressive leader with extensive accomplishments on financial services, national security, the economy, and women’s issues. She is the former Chairwoman of both the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and of the Joint Economic Committee, the first woman to hold both of these positions. Ms. Maloney began her professional career as a teacher and administrator for the New York City Board of Education. When the program she was working for was cut, her colleagues elected her as their advocate to restore funding - and she succeeded, setting an example that has extended throughout her career. Representative Maloney is a leading advocate for—and was a chief House sponsor of—the fight to recognize ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). She has long pressed for acknowledgment of its legality. Overcoming years-long resistance from the Senate, she also secured approval to build the forthcoming Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum on the National Mall. Following her 30 years in Congress, Representative Maloney has recently returned to her teaching roots, and is currently serving as the “Eleanor Roosevelt Distinguished Leader in Residence” at Hunter College’s Roosevelt House, a public policy institute housed at Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt’s former New York City home. In addition to teaching, she is also serving as President of the National Organization for Women (NOW) for New York State and Chair of the ERA Coalition’s Fund for Women’s Equality.



The Future of the League: Evaluating Our Impact
Sunday, June 4th, 9 AM

Ayo Atterberry, Chief of Culture at LWVUS

In this new age of information, evaluating our programs and collecting data on our efforts is critical to determining our impact. The public and funders want to see the effectiveness of the League. Additionally, the bylaws that were adopted at LWVUS Convention last year are part of the “transformation process” and are currently being discussed nationwide for input on their implementation. This presentation will explore the vast world of data collection and evaluation and will explain the proposed process and timetable of the new dues and membership structure.

A nonprofit leader with over two decades of experience, Ayo's journey with the League began as a board member. Previously, she spent over a year in the role of chief strategy officer, where she oversaw the organization's strategy and programmatic implementation. Her career includes being a senior associate in the Evidence-Based Practice Group at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the director of outcomes, assessment, and learning at Venture Philanthropy Partners, and the founder of Atterberry Consulting. She has served on numerous local nonprofit boards.

Workshops

Saturday 8:30 to 10:00 AM

How to Become a More Effective Moderator

Maureen Murray, LWV of Cooperstown

Moderating candidate events, town meetings and other educational programs takes skill and strength. Come learn some tips to enhance your moderating skills.

How Can We Expand our Impact by Working Together?

Regina Goutevenier, LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset

Hear how local Leagues are working with other community organizations to expand their work, diversify their involvement, and have a greater impact in their community?

Membership: Everything, Everywhere, All at Once

Joy Rosenzweig, LWVNYS Board Member

Join us to share concrete ideas on increasing, engaging, and diversifying membership through simple changes or additions to what we do already. Hear from League members about how we do this through hot topics, contentious elections, and advocacy.

How to Strengthen our Visibility with Social Media

Milly Czerwinski, LWVNYS Communications and Development Associate

Using Vote 411 as an example, learn how to develop and utilize communication strategies to market the League brand and election information.

Saturday 10:15 to 11:30 AM

What's Changed in Elections Procedures?

Jennifer Wilson, NYS BOE Deputy Director of Public Information

Come hear about the many changes in elections that have been (or are being) implemented in the last few years, including college campus poll sites, 10 day voter registration, AVR/OVR, NYVRA and potential database, early voting expansion and absentee ballot tracker system.

Successes, Missteps & Next Steps in our journey to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion!

Regina Tillman, LWVYS VP for DEI and DEI Task Force Steering Committee

We begin by sharing results of the LWVNYS 2023 DEI Self-Assessment Surveys. Several local Leagues will share their inspiring "DEI Success Stories", and by also including any missteps taken, will convey valuable lessons gained from their DEI journey thus far. Q&A and group discussion will suggest possible next steps to influence your League's culture, with a helpful one-pager made available.

Can Detainees in our Jails Have Better Access to Elections?

Hazel Weiser, LWVNYS Committee on Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice Reform Committee of the State League conducted a statewide survey of the status of voting and voter registration in county jails. At this workshop we will describe the project’s structure and present preliminary results.

How Do We Engage More College Students?

Nick Doran, LWVNYS Board Member

Come learn best practices on engaging college students in advocacy, how to best approach teaching advocacy, and how to maintain continuous engagement with college students through examples from local Leagues and leveraging the LWVNYS booklet, *Citizen Lobbyist*.

HOSPITALITY/PLENARY/SALES

HOSPITALITY

LOCATION:
Room M14

Friday, June 2
8 – 11 pm

Saturday, June 3
8 – 11 pm

SALES AND EXHIBITS

LOCATION:
28 High Street

Friday, June 2
8:00 pm–10:30 pm

Saturday, June 3
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
8:00 pm – 10:30 pm

Sunday, June 4
11:30 pm – 12:30 pm

PLENARY

LOCATION:
Town Hall

Saturday, June 3
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Sunday, June 4
9:00 am - Noon

2023 Proposed Convention Rules

A motion to adopt these rules will be made shortly after convention opens and a quorum has been declared. Amendments to this motion can be made at this time and require a majority vote for adoption. The rules as a whole (either amended or as given below) require a majority vote for adoption. A 2/3 vote is required to change them after they have been adopted.

1. Admission to the convention floor shall be limited to those displaying authorized badges. Doors are closed promptly when each session convenes. They will be opened periodically. Doors will be closed during a vote, and no one may enter or leave.
2. Seating in the Convention hall shall be divided into two areas: one for VOTING delegates and one for NON-VOTING delegates and VISITORS. All persons in the hall during sessions are requested to sit in their designated areas.
3. Announcements from the platform shall be made only by the Chair, and shall relate only to Convention business or the welfare of the delegates. Notices to be announced must be given to the secretary in writing.
4. Delegates - Only delegates and members of the state board may make motions and vote.

5. A Credentials report shall be given by the Credentials Chair at the beginning of each session. The report shall include the number of delegates, alternates, and visitors. The credentials report shall be updated as requested by the presiding officer of the Convention or upon motion of the Convention.
6. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business at convention shall be participation by one tenth of the total number of authorized delegates.
7. Alternates shall vote only when taking the place of a regular delegate, wearing a delegate's badge that has been assigned by the Credentials Chair, and sitting in the delegate section.
8. Privileges of the Floor - Delegates, state board members and those designated by the delegate body may speak.
9. Motions shall be made only by accredited delegates and members of the state board of directors. The mover shall obtain a motion form from the Page at a microphone, complete the form, and return it to the Page for distribution to the Chair, Parliamentarian, Secretary and staff member for display to the audience. The motions or amendments shall include the name and local League of the mover. There shall be no discussion or action on a motion until a copy is in the hands of the Chair. The Chair may waive this requirement.
10. Debate and discussion shall be limited to those granted the privileges of the floor. Only those standing at a microphone shall be recognized to speak. The Chair shall designate "pro" and "con" microphones at appropriate times and alternately recognize delegates standing at them. Each speaker shall be limited to two minutes. This time may be extended or shortened by a two-thirds vote of the delegate body. No one shall speak for a second time on a question until all who wish to speak have spoken once. No one shall speak more than twice on a question.
11. Voting - Only accredited delegates and members of the state board shall be entitled to vote. Delegates may vote by proxy as outlined in the LWVNYS bylaws; a proxy form will be available from the state League office and must be signed by the local League President and submitted to the Chair at Convention. The Chair, unless otherwise directed by the delegate body, will decide which of the following methods of voting shall be employed:
 - a. By Voice - Delegates vote by saying aye or nay
 - b. By Hand - Delegates raise hands for aye and nay
 - c. By Standing - Delegates vote by standing
 - d. By Division of House - Delegates stand and count off
 - e. By Card - Delegates submit red and green cards indicating their vote and Elections Committee counts the cards

When a vote is in process, the doors to the Convention hall shall be closed and no one may enter or leave.

12. Action Motions - An action motion is a means for the delegate body to speak in concert

on a matter of importance to the organization. It proposes action on a legislative or administrative matter at the state level and directs the League to take a specific action (e.g., sending a letter to the Governor). Action motions shall be referred to and considered by the Action Motions Committee appointed by the Chair before the first plenary session of the Convention.

- a. Action motions must be completed and submitted by 5:00 pm on Saturday. Action Motions must be emailed to Laura@lwvny.org.
- b. To be recommended by the committee, the action motion must:
 - i. be consistent with League positions and
 - ii. must not conflict with ongoing advocacy work.
 - iii. The committee may also consider whether the action will help further an adopted League priority and
 - iv. whether the proposed action is likely to have a measurable impact on the outcome of the matter.
- c. Action motions recommended by the Actions Motions Committee require a majority vote for adoption.

13. The Action Motions Committee and Process: At least four weeks before the Convention, the LWVNYS President shall have appointed an Action Motion Committee consisting of one member of the LWVNYS Board of Directors and one registered Convention delegate.

- a. The Action Motions Committee shall meet on Saturday evening to consider whether each submitted action motion *meets the criteria, timing, and process requirements*. The time and location of the meeting will be announced with the Convention schedule. A representative of the League submitting an action motion shall have an opportunity to explain the action motion to the Action Motions Committee if the representative so requests.
- b. The Chair of the Action Motions Committee will announce the recommendations of the Committee to the Convention during the 2nd plenary session. Any action motion reported affirmatively *to have met the criteria for resolutions or action motions by the Action Motion Committee may be moved for consideration of the Convention*.

14. Miscellaneous Motions - A speaker may request a Page at a microphone to use a colored card to request a point of order, a point of information, a parliamentary inquiry or a question of privilege.

15. Introduction of Proposed Program: The proposed LWVNYS Program shall be moved for adoption by a member of the LWVNYS Board. Debate and action on the Proposed Program shall take place during the 2nd plenary session at a time designated by the Chair. During the times specified in the agenda for Program consideration and Program debate, the chair will divide the time equally among the program items that have been granted consideration.

16. Consideration of Non-Recommended Program Items: Any delegate may move for consideration of non-recommended Program items at the first plenary session immediately following the introduction of the Proposed Program. Presentations shall be

limited to five minutes. No additional motions or debate are in order at this time. If a non-recommended item is moved for consideration, any delegate may request a statement from the LWVNYS Board, limited to five minutes, giving the reasons for not recommending the item.

- a. After all non-recommended items have been moved for consideration, a vote for consideration of each shall take place in the order in which the items were moved for consideration. No additional motions or debate are in order at this time. A majority vote is required to consider a non-recommended item.
 - b. Debate and action on non-recommended Program items shall take place at the same plenary as debate and action on the proposed Program as designated by the Chair.
17. Adoption of Program: shall take place at the second plenary session.
 - a. Action on the proposed Program, concurrence proposals, and any non-recommended program items voted for consideration by the delegates and moved for adoption shall take place at a time designated by the chair. Proposals for concurrence are debatable but not amendable.
 - b. A majority vote is required to adopt the proposed Program.
 - c. A 3/5 vote is required for adoption of non-recommended items.
 - d. Amendments to wording for editorial purposes, clarification, or emphasis may be made at this point but may not change the scope or meaning of the item.
18. Nominations: Any candidate who is nominated from the floor shall give consent and be allowed to address the delegates for one minute immediately after their name is placed in nomination.
19. Elections - The Credentials Chair shall present a final report to the Convention or the election committee before the election procedure begins.
20. Promotional materials may be distributed only by delegates and alternates wearing badges and only before or after a session. Official Convention materials and promotional materials relating to Convention issues may be placed on the chairs or tables prior to the beginning of a convention session.
21. Rules - After adoption, these rules may be amended or suspended by a two-thirds vote. Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will govern all matters not covered in the rules or in the bylaws.
22. Minutes - The minutes of the LWVNYS Convention shall be approved by the LWVNYS board of directors upon recommendation of a Minutes Review Committee appointed to review and correct the minutes.

Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	VOTE NEEDED
Adjourn the meeting	I move that we adjourn	No	Yes	No	Majority
Recess the meeting until...	I move that we recess the meeting until...	No	Yes	No	Majority
Complain about noise, room, temperature, etc.	Point of privilege	Yes	No	No	No vote
Suspend further consideration of something	I move we table it	No	Yes	No	Majority
End, limit, or extend debate	I move (that) the previous question	No	Yes	No	2/3 vote
Postpone consideration of something	I move we postpone this matter until...	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Have something studied further	I move we refer this to committee.	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	I move to amend this motion	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduce business (a primary motion)	I move that...	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Object to procedure or to personal affront	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No vote: chair decides
Request information or Parliamentary Inquiry	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No vote
Ask for a rising vote to verify a voice vote	I call for a division of the house	Yes	No	No	No vote
Ask for a vote count to verify a rising vote	I call for a vote count	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Object to considering some matter	I object to consideration	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
Take up a matter previously tabled	I move to take from the table...	No	Yes	No	Majority

Parliamentary Procedure Cont.

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	VOTE NEEDED
Reconsider something already disposed of	*I move we reconsider action on	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only a majority if original quest. Was debatable
Consider something not in scheduled order	I move we suspend the rules and...	No	Yes	No	2/3 vote
Vote on a ruling by the chair	I appeal the chair’s decision.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Division of question (voting separately on parts)	I move to divide the question.	No	Yes	No	Majority
Consider seriatim or consider by paragraph (amend each & then vote on the whole)	I move we consider by paragraph.	No	Yes	No	Majority
Rescind (repeal)	I move to rescind the motion which was adopted...	No	Yes	Yes	2/3 vote

* Must be done by someone who voted on the prevailing side and must be done the same or following day.

Thanks to the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts for providing the basis for this memo.

Tips for Delegates

This workbook contains the information necessary for full and informed participation in Convention debate and decision-making.

Convention Conduct: Sessions begin promptly. The Order of Business (Agenda) adopted at the opening session will be closely followed. In order to fulfill your responsibility to interpret and report Convention action to your own League and to represent it accurately, you should be seated before the opening time of each session and remain until recess or adjournment. Delegates are uninstructed and make decisions based on their best judgment in the light of Convention discussion. As a representative of your local League, however, you should know the thinking of your members. You should see that their opinions are adequately and fully presented during debate.

Discussion and debate are the most important parts of a League Convention. However, delegates should exercise self-discipline if the time schedule is to be maintained. If a previous speaker makes your point while you are waiting to speak, either sit down or say, "I agree with the previous speaker." A delegate wishing to address the Convention should go to a microphone, wait for recognition, and then state her/his name and League.

All motions must be in writing and handed to the Page at the microphone for transmittal to the Chair before the motion is made. Help the secretary to prepare Convention minutes by giving the Page copies of your statements. ***Proposed non-recommended items must be properly worded so delegates understand what is involved and what the implications are for state program.***

Caucuses are an exciting part of Convention. Attend one or more of them. Rooms will be available on Saturday evening for caucuses and other informal meetings. Contact the Convention registration desk in order to arrange for a caucus room. State board members do not attend caucuses; if you would like one or more state board members to attend your caucus, you must invite them.

Exchange of ideas and information among the delegates is most valuable. Split up your delegation when attending caucuses and other meetings.

Program adoption begins during the first Convention session with the presentation of the program proposed by the state board. ***Questions for clarification*** only (e.g., the extent, meaning or timing of the item) may be asked at this time. The Chair will rule out of order any discussion on the merits of the item.

After the state board's proposals are presented, delegates may move consideration of non-recommended items submitted by local Leagues during the program making process. A delegate moving a non-recommended item is limited to ***five minutes*** for its presentation.

Editorial changes in recommended items (changes in language which do not change the meaning or scope of the item) should not be proposed at this time. If necessary, the Chair will rule as to whether a suggested wording constitutes an editorial change or a non-recommended item.

The "PROPOSED 2023-2025 LWVNYS PROGRAM" in this Kit contains all of the "Recommended Items."

(a) A delegate wishing to drop an item on the recommended program should vote against it. No motion is necessary.

(b) Any expansion of present recommended items involving new study or redirection must be moved as a non-recommended item. This can only be done if the expansion is included in the list of non-recommended items circulated in this workbook.

All program motions will be voted on during the second session in the following sequence:

1. The state board's recommended proposals.
2. Non-recommended items voted for consideration in the order in which they were presented to the Convention.

When an item is brought up for final debate and vote, motions to amend its wording may be made. These changes may be editorial, for clarification or for emphasis, but may not limit or enlarge the scope of the item. A majority vote is required to amend and the proposed amendment is acted on before the final vote on the item is taken. If a delegate intends to move an editorial change, it would be helpful to indicate this during the free discussion period.

Items recommended by the state board require a majority vote for adoption; non-recommended items require a 3/5 vote. (Bylaws, Article XI, Sec. 3)

PLENARY SESSION AGENDA

LOCATION: Town Hall

Plenary Session I Saturday, June 3rd, 1:45 pm

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1:45 pm | Call to Order
Judie Gorenstein, LWVNYS President |
| 1:50 | Welcome by Albany Chief City Auditor, Dr. Dorcey Applrys |
| 2:00 | Welcoming Remarks by Judie Gorenstein |
| 2:15 | Acknowledgements:

Local League volunteers/other volunteers:

Audrey Capers
Alycia Bacon
Lars Dahl
Mary Lou Classen
Pat Partello
Virginia Fletcher
Joanne Shawhan
Karen Chisolm
Pat Maxon
Lacey Putnam
Kathleen Stell
Barb Thomas and Kathy Koebrich – Training of volunteers for plenary sessions |
| 2:25 | Introductions:

State Board

Staff (Laura Ladd Bierman, Erica Smitka, Milly Czerwinski, Aimee Messier)
Parliamentarian: Jill Nagy (LWV of Rensselaer)
Elections Committee Chair: Kathy Meany (LWV of Rivertowns)
Minutes Review: Jane Colvin (LWVNYS) and Margie McIntosh (Cattaraugus and Allegany MAL Unit)

Action Motions Committee: Sally Robinson (LWVNYS) and Michele Lamberti (LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset)
Credentials Chair: Kai Rosenthal, LWV of NYC |
| 2:45 | Report of the Credentials Committee
Kai Rosenthal, Chair (LWV of NYC) |
| 2:55 | Adoption of Rules of Convention |
| 3:10 | Adoption of the Order of Business |

- 3:15** **Report of the Nominating Committee:**
Dare Thompson, Nominating Committee
- **Nominations from floor**
- 3:25** **Presentation of Proposed Recommended Program**
Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy
- 3:50** **Presentation & Vote for Consideration of Non-Recommended Items**
Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy
- 4:00** **Financial Report: Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director**
- 4:15** **Presentation of Proposed Budget**
Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director
- 4:30** **Intent to Propose Action Motions**
- 4:35** **Moments in the Sun**
- 4:55** **Announcements**

Plenary Session II
Sunday, June 4th, 9:00 am

- 9:00** **Call to Order**
- 9:05 am** **Report of the Credentials Committee**
Kai Rosenthal, Chair
- 9:10** **Remarks from Ayo Atterberry, LWVUS Chief of Culture**
- 9:45** **Program discussion and Adoption:**
- **Proposed recommended program**
 - **Proposed non-recommended items**
- 10:30** **Consideration of Action Motions**
- 10:40** **Vote on PMP**
- 10:45** **Vote on Proposed Budget**
- 10:55** **Election of Officers and Directors**
- 10:50** **Gifts to Outgoing Board: Judie Gorenstein**
- 11:10** **Remarks by New President: Nancy Rosenthal**
- 11:20** **Remaining Moments in the Sun**
- 11:45** **Directions to the Board**

ADJOURNMENT

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Judie Gorenstein

Working Together, Moving Forward

Over the past twelve months LWVNYS worked with all our local Leagues, MALS and ILOs, and with LWVUS to move forward to empower voters and defend our democracy. Our mission has never been clearer or more important. Voting rights have been restricted in many states and are being threatened in others. Women’s rights, human rights, LGBT rights continue to be threatened and, in some states, taken away. We have realized that even in New York where we thought many of these rights were protected, they could possibly be taken away. Our tasks and goals were enormous: educating voters; registering voters; turning out the vote, especially in underserved areas; increasing awareness of the major issues; advocating and lobbying for bills that supported LWVNY positions; taking actions and speaking out, while all the time being careful to abide by our non-partisan position. Our commitment never flagged in support of our laws and our constitution that are needed to protect our democracy.

The external and internal challenges we faced were many and still remain: increased polarization throughout the country; increased misinformation from media; increased challenges to our non-partisan policy; candidates refusing to participate in our LWV debates; and, at the same time, many Leagues struggling with membership and leadership.

However, our resources to meet these challenges were and continue to be many. The LWVNYS board was and is strong, diverse, and committed and motivated to work together with Leagues throughout the state building on our previous experiences. Presidents’ zoom meetings were successful last year. Therefore, this year we held five that were well attended and enabled LWVNYS to help local Leagues and local Leagues to help LWVNYS. The first meeting which was the beginning of the year for all local Leagues and the first time newly elected presidents were on the call focused on what presidents needed to know, where to find information, and how to build a strong board. The second held in September focused on data, what LWVUS and LWVNYS needed and how Leagues could do it, as well as on the Rights and Responsibility Policy LWVUS was proposing. Unlike previous topics which Leagues had brought up, these came at the request of LWVUS as well as LWVNYS. Yes, we were and are all working together. Data collection was never a strong point of our Leagues nor stressed. However, it is important when applying for grants. It is also important when showing how much we really do. This zoom meeting was informative, presidents were all engaged, asking questions, sharing ideas. As a result, Leagues have been better at collecting data and completing surveys, although there is still room for improvement. The October presidents’ meeting focused on the Nominating Committee: its power, its importance, and the process it needs to follow in choosing the upcoming slate of officers. Presidents as well as nominating chairs were invited to this meeting. Too often, in the past the importance of this chair and the committee has been overlooked but a good Nominating Committee is imperative for the growth and survival of every League. In the future, moving forward, LWVNYS will be requesting the names of the nominating chairs from (????) each League and may consider a list serve or a google group for them. The fourth presidents’ zoom, “Past, Present, Future,” held this January

was a brief look back to the successes in 2022 as well as goals not achieved followed by a discussion of a new regional initiative designed to help local Leagues. The fifth and last presidents’ zoom held in March highlighted the ideas that were brought out in the five regional meetings. Leagues in each region had shared ideas with others in their region. Now the highlights were shared with all. Yes, the presidents’ zoom meetings helped us work together and move forward.

Our committees with strong co-chairs that had formed in 2021 were able to assess their goals and accomplishments from the prior year and make modifications to attain the goals. Here are some highlights of their activities. A common theme you will certainly notice is how each has helped move us forward in our mission:

The Voter Service Committee updated their three toolkits and provided vital up to date information in spring and summer of 2022 as dates of primaries were in flux.

The Youth Committee put together a Youth Toolkit for programs and held a Back To School Webinar for youth chairs throughout the state to share their programs and ideas.

The DEI Task Force continued to make the LWVNY a diverse, equitable and inclusive organization through their workshops, 21 day challenges, drop-in sessions, and webinars, increasing self-awareness and need for change in our Leagues and in their greater communities.

The Local League Support Committee redoubled its efforts to support local Leagues by forming regional groups and holding regional meetings to discuss common problems and solutions.

Our Issues and Advocacy work helped us move forward. The weekly Legislative Update emails to all members kept everyone informed on all LWVNYS was doing and what members could do to protect our democracy. Our issue specialists helped us work together and move forward. In January LWVNYS held an outstanding Legislative Hot Topics Webinar, initiated by the LWV of Albany. 100 League members heard from 8 of our issue specialists and learned how we do advocacy and take action on issues. Our laws and our constitution need to protect our freedoms and our democracy. LWVNYS lobbied for the NYS Equal Rights Amendment and created the League of Women Voters of New York State ERA Advocacy Task force. Working together with other good government groups, we can get the referendum passed in 2024.

Partnering and networking with other organizations has certainly helped us move forward. Disability Rights NY provided closed captioning and ASL to any League who was holding a virtual candidate event and requested their services. Our partnership with Community Health Care Associations of NYS allowed us to register voters in underserved areas as they attended to their health care. Our local Leagues were encouraged to reach out to other groups and organizations. The surveys and data collection forms they have completed indicate that the majority of Leagues are being successful in doing this.

Working with LWVUS is helping us move forward. They provided us with grants which helped local Leagues. They provided webinars, templates and toolkits which helped local.

LWVUS is diligently working on the Transformation Journey. They have looked to local and state Leagues for feedback on their policies and plans. LWVNYS and our local Leagues provided them with that feedback and served on their committees. We will learn more about how LWVUS moving us forward the Sunday of convention.

At LWVNYS Convention, we will all come together and we will move forward. I want to thank the board and all four of the dedicated LWVNYS staff for all they have done to not only make this convention be the success I am sure it will be but also to move the LWVNYS forward. I want to thank not only the delegates who are coming to convention, but all the Leagues, Mal units and ILOs who have worked so diligently to empower voters and protect democracy and move us forward. We could not accomplish what we have done and continue to do without each of you. I want to also thank our donors. Without our donations we could not grow and do all that is needed. There is still so much work to be done. People need to be empowered. Our democracy needs to be protected. Our mission remains. Our nonpartisan policy and our DEI policy needs to be constant. However, we must assess how we are doing and if not meeting our goals reevaluate how to reach them. We cannot stand still. We must continue to grow. Our foundation is strong and we will do what we need to remain for the next 100 years. We will empower voters and protect our democracy. We will all continue to work together and move forward.

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Nancy Rosenthal, Vice President for Voter Services

The past couple of years have posed challenges and opportunities for those of us in Voter Services. We have seen our physical presence shrink, as our virtual presence expanded. This has enabled more people to become involved, particularly in candidate forums, albeit at a distance. Due to the marvels of modern technology and the creativity of our League members, many of our candidate events are Zoom-enabled events. Some are hybrid—in person and live-streamed, or recorded and available for viewing after the fact. Our Voter Service community has risen to the difficulty of holding in-person events during COVID. We are very proud of all our local League Voter Service teams who worked hard and with creativity to reach out to voters at all stages of the voting process.

Tracking Data: There is a growing emphasis and importance in keeping track of all our work, and in every contact we make with the public, whether at a farmers’ market, or a candidate forum.

In 2021, we sent out a Voter Service Survey to all local Leagues and despite being in the middle of the Covid pandemic, we achieved 75% participation. This highlighted the tremendous efforts made by our local Voter Service teams.

In 2022, our second Voter Service Survey was extensive, and we achieved 100% participation, despite the lingering effects of COVID. The State League uses the information that we gathered in grant applications, and in keeping track of what local Leagues are accomplishing. This was a proud moment for our Voter Service efforts, and we are very grateful for your participation. This survey highlighted the ways in which the

League works tirelessly to inform the public, get out the vote and challenge the system when appropriate. Of special note is the number of Leagues who have a positive relationship with their local Board of Elections.

To summarize, with 100% responses from all local Leagues in NY State:

- 1,025 League members volunteered to assist in voter registration drives and candidate forums;
- 221 new volunteers and new members assisted
- 227 candidate forums were posted on Vote411.
- Leagues held 549 registration events (i.e. schools, farmers markets, naturalization ceremonies, underserved communities) and registered 9,257 new voters.
- 105 candidate forums were held, 53 of which were virtual, 41 in person, and 11 hybrid. Those forums had 27,580 views after the live event, whether held in person or virtually.
- Over 51,096 pieces of voting information were distributed or handed out.

The Voter Service team revised and updated three toolkits: Voter Registration, Candidate Forums, and Get Out the Vote. We also updated the five pamphlets on Voting: First Vote, Individuals with Criminal Convictions or Detained in Jail or Prison, Homeless Individuals, College Students, Individuals with Disabilities, and Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities.

And, we created and translated in five additional languages Voters Guide Part II that described, had the actual language together with the pros and cons of the five Ballot Proposals.

The League’s presence at the NYS Fair in Syracuse over 13 days in late August-early September drew many people asking questions about voting, and we note the following as an example of our effect: 272 people filled out Voter Registration forms that we mailed on their behalf, and 230 people picked up Voter Registration forms.

The State League offered “Making Democracy Work” mini-grants to local Leagues across the state for GOTV work. A total of \$18,550 was disbursed.

To reach more people, and to reduce the use of paper, the State League is now embedding “QR Codes” into our literature, on posters, and on our website so people can download all relevant information right onto their phones.

Our GOTV efforts are expanding so that “Plan to Vote Cards” can be downloaded from the LWV United States website (League Management tab). These palm cards can be distributed at Voter Registration and other voter events. People who have a ‘plan’ set up to vote, are more apt to vote. We promoted the League’s texting service to get timely text reminders about voting: VoteNY to 474747.

The State League voter service team dispersed up-to-the-minute information about the NYS primaries during the summer of 2022: June 28, 2022 for Governor, Lt. Governor and NYS Assembly seats, and August 23, 2022 for US Congressional and NYS Senate seats.

We also kept all local Leagues informed about fast-moving developments headed into the August primaries, such as the deadline for changing party affiliation.

Youth participation in the voting process crucial to our future. The state League conducted voter registration drives in colleges, and high schools around the state. The Mid-Hudson League partnered with other organizations to challenge the local Board of Elections to place a polling venue on the Vassar College campus, as required by law, and prevailed.

Vote411 continues to be successful. For the August, 2022 primaries, 75% of all candidates responded and entered information on the League’s online voter information site. From January, 2022 through November, 2022, New Yorkers visited Vote411 339,163.

On election day, we provided contact numbers for two hotlines to call if any issues at the polls—NYS Attorney General’s office, and NYS Democratic Lawyers’ Committee. The members of the Voter Service Committee continued to develop and solidify relationships with their assigned Leagues. It is gratifying to get to know local Voter Service leaders, and for the local Leagues to have a personal contact on the State board.

We look forward to another great year ahead, with challenges, accomplishments, and participation by all. As this past year has shown, it takes a team to get work done. Thank you.

ISSUES AND ADVOCACY REPORT
Sally Robinson, Vice President for Issues and Advocacy
Erica Smitka, LWVNYS Legislative Director

2022 Election Reform Bills

Below is an overview of significant outcomes from the 2022 Legislative session. The Governor signed the following three bills that the League strongly supported this session.

10-day Voter Registration: This will reduce the voter registration deadline to the constitutional minimum of ten days. In order for a 10-day registration deadline to be effective, implementing legislation must be passed and signed into law in the 2023 session. The most popular implementation bill is one introduced by Senator Myrie last session (S1552 (2021-2022 session)). This bill would allow for affidavit voting at poll sites on the first day of early voting and require local BOEs to confirm eligibility on the back end. The League supports this bill.

Wrong Church: This bill requires counting affidavit ballots of eligible voters if a voter appears at a polling place in the correct county and assembly district but in the incorrect election district.

NYVRA: This marks a monumental achievement for voting rights in the state of New York and will serve as an example to other states and Congress. The John R. Lewis Voting

Rights Act of NYS is a state-level Voting Rights Act would help prevent and redress acts of voter suppression, disenfranchisement, or intimidation; require certain localities to clear local changes to voter access that could infringe civil rights with the NYS Attorney General; designate SUNY as a transparent state steward of election data; and improve language assistance. The Governor signed this bill on June 20, 2022 on Medgar Evers College campus and the League was there!

2022 Midterm Elections

Election Protection Education

As we neared the 2022 mid-term elections, the state League launched an education campaign to provide local Leagues and members with materials that detail how NYS runs secure, reliable, and fair elections. These materials were used as talking points with local news outlets, delivered to county board of elections, and distributed to voters who might have questions about how it all works.

The League also took part in the Election Protection effort (1-866-OUR-VOTE) run by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and Common Cause. During early voting and on election day we were in the command center working to escalate issues called in from voters across the state to ensure everyone had equal access to the ballot this year. The State League recruited local Leagues to participate in a post-election ballot canvassing observation led by the Lawyers Committee and Common Cause. Volunteers observed the canvassing of ballots to look for inconsistencies and report any sort of disruption at canvassing sites. Volunteers from the League were recruited from the following counties: Kings County, Suffolk County, Orange County, Ulster County, Dutchess County, Putnam County, Rockland County, Onondaga County, Tompkins County. These counties were chosen either because they had seen an uptick in election denialism organizations or had contentious races this season.

Vassar College Lawsuit

The Andrew Goodman Foundation (AGF), the League of Women Voters (LWV) of the Mid-Hudson Region & New York State, county-based Dutchess Student Voting Coalition, and the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) celebrated a significant victory for Vassar College students. The win guaranteed that an accessible polling place would be added on the Vassar campus on Election Day in November’s mid-term. The lawsuit filed just two days prior to the decision, argued that the Dutchess County Board of Elections (BOE) was in violation of state law.

The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act

In August of 2022, the State League joined the Vote Yes for Clean Water and Jobs Coalition in support of the Environmental Bond Act that was on the ballot in November of 2022. The coalition is led by The Nature Conservancy. LWVNYS and many local Leagues took part in webinars, press conferences and other measures to support passage of the ballot. The Act was passed by New York voters.

2023 Redistricting Update

New York’s redistricting legal battles continue well past the 2022 election in which the state’s Congressional and state senate lines were redrawn by a special master after a

finding by the state's highest court that the Congressional maps were a partisan gerrymander and the process used to pass both maps violated the state's Constitution. The assembly maps were challenged in a separate case but there was not enough time to implement a revised assembly map before the 2022 election.

The assembly case ultimately resulted in the Independent Redistricting Commission being reconstituted to draw new assembly maps that were passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor in April of 2023. The League supported the alternative of new assembly maps being drawn by the same special master who drew the Congressional and state senate maps. A different case, Hoffman vs. Independent Redistricting Commission continues and is now seeking to have Congressional redistricting re-opened and new maps drawn by the IRC and approved by the Legislature for the 2024 election. The League strongly opposes this result and believes there is no basis under the precedent of the Harkenrider decision and the state Constitution to redraw maps before the 2030 census.

New York State Budget 2023

The League testified at the Public Protection hearing on February 7, 2023. We asked for:

- \$20M in funding for county boards of elections
- \$5M to support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act Database bill
- An additional \$75M to fully fund the matching portion of the new Public Campaign Finance Board Read our full testimony here.

In addition to orally testifying at the Public Protection hearing we also submitted written testimony to the Elementary and Secondary Education hearing, the Environmental Conservation hearing, and the Health and Mental Hygiene hearing.

One House Budgets

The League reviewed and assessed the Senate and Assembly one-house budgets. We were pleased to see support for many of the issue areas on which we work. See the statement summarizing the decisions we support and those we oppose at Senate: <https://lwvny.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2-One-House-BudgetStatement-2023-Senate.pdf> .

Assembly: <https://lwvny.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2-One-HouseBudget-Statement-2023-Assembly.pdf>

Climate Legislation Under Attack

In early April of 2023, Senator Parker and Assemblymember Barrett, introduced S6030 which would have a disastrous impact on NY State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The CLCPA measures greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using a 20-year time frame. Heat trapping methane emissions, which account for approximately one-quarter of global warming effects today, present the greatest planetary harm in the first 20 years after release. This change would delay harmful emissions reductions and prolong unacceptable conditions that pollute, provoke extreme weather and could potentially trigger irreversible climate effects. The role of human generated GHG must be addressed aggressively and cannot be delayed. The NYS League strongly opposes the recently proposed bill and wrote a memo of opposition which you can read here. Later this

week, the Governor announced that S6030 would be taken out of budget negotiations, but that does not mean that the bill can't move once the budget has passed. We will continue to monitor this issue.

Automatic Voter Registration and Online Voter Registration Implementation

The State League has been meeting with the State Board of Elections along with the Brennan Center, Citizens Union, Common Cause, NALEO, Brooklyn Voters Alliance and other good government groups to discuss the planned implementation of automatic voter registration and online voter registration in New York State. We have been meeting with the state Board to discuss the timeline for implementation, how to test the system, and to ensuring the board has feedback from our organizations as it relates to the needs of voters.

Selection Process Changed for NYS Court of Appeals

Citizens Union, the League of Women Voters of New York State, and the Committee for Modern Courts, opposed Governor Hochul's "program bill" to change the selection process for appointing judges to the New York State Court of Appeals. This bill unfortunately passed in both the Senate and the Assembly. If an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals is appointed to be the Chief Judge, the Governor will be permitted to nominate someone to the vacant Associate Judge position from the list of recommended names that the Commission on Judicial Nomination provided to fill the Chief Judge position. This will heavily politicize a sensitive nomination process that centers appropriate qualifications for each Court position, and conflicts with the plain language of the State Constitution. Here are the top reasons we oppose this measure:

- We believe this proposal would be unconstitutional.
- Associate Judge and Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals are two positions requiring different qualifications.
- This proposal would reintroduce politicization into a sensitive nomination process that should be left detached from political-horse trading.

Ethics Reform

Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government

In September of 2022 the new Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (the "Commission" or CELG) started to come together. The League, along with several other good government groups, monitored the nomination process and progress. In early September, we encouraged them to get to work as the New York State Independent Review Committee (composed of the state's law school deans) had approved seven out of eleven commissioners, enough commissioners appointed for a quorum – the legal minimum required to conduct business. We identified the creation of the new Commission as an opportunity to "reset" public and state officers and employees' expectations about state ethics oversight. The Commissioners are urged to do the following:

- Clearly firewall Commissioners from the elected officials (or their representatives) who appointed them (prohibit ex parte communications).
- Fully use the Commission's powers under state law to fulfill the Commission's mission of restoring public trust in state government.
- Pursue enforcement matters promptly, including previous Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) matters.

- Reexamine current protocols and procedures regarding advisory opinions to avoid abuse of authority (such as by requiring Commission approval of all opinions regarding agency heads and statewide elected officials).
- Appoint an Executive Director after a nationwide search.
- Ensure state workers feel confident in reporting allegations of misconduct.
- Require trauma-informed harassment training for all Commissioners and senior staff.
- Increase transparency and access to public information through use of open data for financial disclosure reports, improving the lobbying database, collaborating with the Attorney General’s New York Open Government portal, and developing clear guidelines regarding disclosing the status of investigations.
- Hold an annual hearing starting in 2022.

New York State Equal Rights Amendment

[New York’s proposed, very inclusive Equal Rights Amendment to the NYS Constitution,](#)

which says that no person can be denied equal rights based on that person’s race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, disability, or sex including pregnancy or pregnancy outcomes, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression was finally passed by the legislature when they came back to Albany in July of 2022.

The week of January 9th, 2023 the State League launched the statewide LWV ERA Taskforce to work on second passage of the New York State Equal Rights Amendment. We have representation from 30 Leagues and 36 members. In addition, LWVNYS’s Deputy Director and Issue Specialist serve on a state-wide ERA advocacy task force. We expect to add more delegates as we get closer to a vote in 2024. The bill passed for a second time in both the Senate and Assembly on January 24th—two days after the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The next step in the process is for the proposed amendment to go on the 2024 ballot.

The taskforce will now launch a statewide voter education campaign before voters have a chance to vote on the bill in November of 2024. If voters approve the amendment it would prohibit discrimination against groups who have been historically targeted, including those with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, immigrants, women, and pregnant people. It would also codify abortion access in our state constitution. Although this amendment will not protect these groups from national legislation or federal court rulings denying their protection, it will protect those groups in NYS and provide a clear legal basis for NYS action.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Elisabeth (Beth) Radow, Committee Chair

Following the unanimous adoption of a resolution declaring climate change an emergency at its June 2021 biannual convention, the League of Women Voters of New York State (the

“NYS League”) has followed through with action to address the myriad impacts the climate emergency presents to New York.

In recognition of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019 (the “CLCPA”) passed by the New York State Legislature and to educate New Yorkers about the intent and scope of the CLCPA, the NYS League hosted Environmental Advocates of New York in April for a webinar titled Tackling New York’s Climate Emergency.

To address the potentially harmful and exhaustive use of fossil fuel for cryptocurrency operations, in January 2022, the NYS League wrote a letter to Governor Hochul requesting issuance of an executive order for a moratorium on blockchain transactions that use proof of work authentication methods for cryptocurrency operations; this was followed by a Memorandum of Support of legislation to establish a moratorium on consolidated operations that use proof-of-work authentication methods to validate blockchain transactions; provided that such operations would be subject to a full generic environmental impact statement review. The NYS Assembly and Senate each passed the legislation, imposing a two-year moratorium, pending performance of an environmental impact review. In November 2022, Governor Hochul signed this legislation into law. Prior to passage of the 2022 state budget, the NYS League signed a group letter urging Governor Hochul to amend the extended producer responsibility (EPR) package in the state budget. The Governor’s resulting budget removed reference to EPR.

With focus on New York’s ambitious goals under the CLCPA, estimated by NYSERDA to cost \$300 billion, the NYS League supported the 2022 Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Bond Act which was on the ballot for the 2022 mid-term general election to help fund the associated projects; it was voted for by New Yorkers at the ballot box. The Act’s terms require that at least 35% of bond proceeds will be spent in disadvantaged communities, with a goal of up to 40%. Allocation is as follows: (i) Climate Change Mitigation (including funds for electrifying school buses)-\$1.5 billion; (ii) Restoration and Flood Risk Reduction-\$1.1 billion; (iii) Open Space Land Conservation and Recreation-\$650 million; (iv) Water Quality Improvement and Resilient Infrastructure-\$650 million; (v) Unallocated-\$300 million. The 2022 Environmental Bond Act authorizes New York State to raise money for projects directly related to the Bond Act’s legislation by issuance of general obligation bonds to investor/bondholders which the State will repay on the terms and over the period of years as specified in the bond issue.

In the 2023 legislative Session, the NYS League continues its focus on the climate and impacts to human health.

Energy and Climate Change. Consistent with the CLCPA which went into effect on January 1, 2023, the League is supporting legislation that favors the development of laws governing renewable energy policy and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, slow climate change and establish climate justice in communities that are currently disproportionately adversely impacted. This includes maintaining measurement of greenhouse gas emissions using the established twenty-year timeline and establishing a climate change superfund whose resources would come from the largest greenhouse gas emitters to cover costs that would otherwise be carried by taxpayers.

Plastic Packaging, Bottle and Can Waste Management. The NYS League is supporting a comprehensive extended producer responsibility bill that creates a program substantially reducing packaging (especially plastic), establishes mandatory standards for waste reduction and recycling, reduces use of toxic chemicals, prohibits incineration; and (ii) a parallel bill updating New York’s beverage deposit law known as the “Bottle Bill” by expanding the required types of beverages sold in glass and plastic bottles that require deposits to include non-carbonated and alcoholic beverage and increasing the deposit from a nickel to a dime. The NYS League supported the original Bottle Bill that was enacted in June 1982 and went into effect in July 1983. Similar bills were introduced but not passed during the spring 2022 legislative session.

Agriculture. The NYS League is also supporting policies that protect safe food production and distribution which includes in this session support for legislation that would eliminate the use of neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) in New York State. To the fullest extent possible, the League supports regenerative agriculture and putting food to productive use with a priority to redirect edible excess food to the state’s food insecure population.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTHCARE

Judy Esterquest, Committee Chair

The LWV of NYS Healthcare Committee (HCC) has met most months since March 2022, building relationships among advocates around the state, sharing ideas and resources, discussing legislation and allies, and prioritizing advocacy. In January 2023, it reached out to other issue specialists to cross-fertilize on common concerns; and in February, during the highly successful LWV of NYS "Hot Topics," which showcased the priorities of all nine issue areas, Healthcare noted overlap with six of them.

In June 2022, the LWVUS Convention concurred with the Health Care Position Update From NYS by a nearly unanimous vote; and the Digital Equity Position, spearheaded by the NYS Rural Caucus and supported by healthcare advocates (e.g., because of telehealth), also earned enough votes to become a US position. During the Convention, Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health was handed down, prompting delegates to join thousands at a spontaneous rally on the grounds of the Denver Statehouse.

National and state politics kept healthcare in the headlines, specifically fall-out from Dobbs, but also Covid's continuing death toll and rising concern about disparate access. Following Dobbs, NYS quickly passed several laws to protect reproductive rights, and it passed the NY Equal Rights Amendment (the first step to changing the NY Constitution). By December 2022, 14 state legislatures had enacted total bans on abortion (affecting 25+ million women) although ballot measures allowed voters to keep it legal in a few states. NYS became a safe haven for ever more women needing care, so we supported additional bills seeking to protect NY providers (including those who offer telehealth for abortion across state lines) and to ensure digital privacy around such services, bills outlined by the Equality of Opportunity report above, which also describes League support for Medical Aid in Dying legislation.

Our Healthcare Committee on advocacy for health reforms and funding targeted to New York's most vulnerable and under-served. Happily, some 2022 bills we supported are now law:

- Beyond the 4th Trimester increases NYS Medicaid coverage from 60 days post-partum to one year — because maternal/infant mortality can be reduced by consistent regular healthcare for mothers and infants.
- End Medical Debt #1: Ban on Medical Liens and Wage Garnishments prohibits hospitals from imposing liens on patients' homes or garnishing wages for medical debt, since no one should lose their home because they needed healthcare.
- End Medical Debt #2: Ban on Facility Fees for Preventive Care & Required Disclosure hospitals must notify patients about facility fees in advance, and it prohibits facility fees for preventive care. Reducing "surprise billing," for otherwise fully covered health services benefits even higher income patients.
- Protecting Confidentiality of Vaccine information, removing individual names from public databases avoids vaccination hesitancy for sexually transmitted diseases. Healthcare should not "out" people.
- Synchronization of Multiple Medicaid Prescriptions so those most likely to have issues getting to pharmacies and refilling prescriptions can have prescription refills synchronized for fewer pickups.

The NYS Budget was delayed so that many bills the LWV could support have not been introduced as of this writing. The LWV supported these in pre-budget testimony:

1. Equitable access for New York's children — to reduce disparities in health outcome:
 - Community Schools, Wrap-Around Services, School-Based Health Clinics to protect fiscal viability and quality of health clinics located in high-need schools, it extends Medicaid managed care waiver.
 - Coverage for All to allow those of NY's half-a-million undocumented residents who are aged 19 to 65 (who are income-eligible) to buy into NY Essential Plan, of which about 154,000 are eligible.
(NY Medicaid covers over-65's; children are covered by Child Health Plus.)
 - Expanded Medicaid Coverage for Doula, a cost-effective way to reduce maternal/infant mortality.
 - First 1000 Days: Extending Medicaid Eligibility for Infants to 3 Years — "churning" children on/off Medicaid, based on parent eligibility, wastes NY administrative time/dollars and harms children's health. Eliminating the "churn," even with added care for perhaps 40% of NY children, saves money.
2. Equitable access for financially vulnerable New Yorkers — Care shouldn't cause poverty:
 - Enroll Incarcerated Persons into Medicaid Prior to Release 60 days in advance to ensure no gap in prescriptions or care — important since 80+% of those released have chronic or major health issues. Those who need insulin, asthma inhalers, psychotropic medications should not be released without them.
 - Ounce of Prevention requires providers to adopt a standard patient financial aid application, with clear and consistent eligibility rules and patient protections so that eligible patients can actually access aid.

- Cap Cost-Share of Insulin lowers the cost-sharing cap for insulin from \$100 to \$30 for all NYers.
 - Other Reforms to ensure that funds allocated for indigent care are used for indigent healthcare which will also mean safety-net hospitals get reimbursed for services (protecting their financial viability).
3. Protecting providers in rural and high-need areas — to protect patient access:
- Revitalized Emergency Medical Services and Medical Transportation — ambulance services are at risk in both rural areas and in cities, and trained EMS workers are retiring faster than they can be replaced. The NYS Budget speaks to this concern but negotiating how to implement a new vision will be difficult.
 - Fair Pay for Homecare sets wages for home care aides as at least 150% of minimum wage requires insurers (for-profit managed care insurers) to reimburse agencies and their workers. NYS is facing the worst shortfall of home care workers in the nation: 25% of patients who need it cannot find anyone.
 - Funding for Broadband and Digital Infrastructure, federal dollars are available, but how they get dispersed will affect whether rural/underserved areas get what they need.
 - Maintain Recently Expanded Coverage For Telehealth, including parity of telehealth coverage for behavioral health and disability services, and prescriptions based on those visits.

Emerging issues include safe consumption facilities to reduce deaths from substance abuse, protecting safety-net hospitals (both urban and rural) from closing (by requiring assessment of community impact and by targeting NYS charity care funds toward facilities that target their care to the uninsured and underinsured), and increasing transparency around hospital policies designed to limit healthcare services for reasons other than medical standard of care (for example, facilities that limit what reproductive services they provide or refuse to follow certain kinds of advance directives with no transparency).

MEDICAL AID IN DYING REPORT

Barb Thomas, Issue Specialist

In the Fall of 2022 LWVNY participated in Compassion & Choices’ Winter Tour (a week of public, media worthy events in each of five sections of the state: North Country, Central NY, Western NY, Capital District and the Hudson Valley, NYC, Long Island area. League members planned and participated in these events designed to educate the public and exert pressure on their legislators. The 2022 election brought a new crop of legislators and it wasn’t till January of 2023 that we learned that Amy Paulin would continue as the Assembly Sponsor, and that Brad Hoylman-Sigal would assume the Senate Sponsorship. There is only one Medical Aid in Dying bill (A.995/S.2445) being considered by the legislature, and it meets all the requirements of our position. League members have joined in zoom and in-person lobbying sessions and visibility events arranged by C&C’s lobby firms and League members turned out in numbers for C&C’s lobby day on April 24th.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY REPORT

Barb Thomas, Issue Specialist

Pay Equity

Pay Transparency- Advocating as a part of PowHer, LWVNY issued a MOS supporting legislation requiring employers to publish the minimum – maximum compensation range for external and internal job openings. (Not knowing what the salary range for a particular position puts applicants – particularly women – at a disadvantage as they negotiate a proposed salary. This is compounded for women of color, women with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals and mothers). This legislation was passed in 2022, but vetoed by Governor Hochul. PowHer is in conversation with the Department of Labor to help them design a section of an existing report to capture compensation by sex and race.

Fair Pay for Homecare

In 2023 LWVNY signed on to a letter in support of Fair Pay for Homecare and also in the comments we submitted on the One-House Budgets we communicated our support for continuing the \$3.00 which homecare workers won in 2022, and having their pay rate be 150% of the minimum wage. We also called for protections to guarantee that these increased wages get passed down to the workers and agencies, and not just be absorbed by the insurance companies.

Raise the Wage

LWVNY signed on to a letter in support of Raise the Wage which would increase the minimum wage and then have it be indexed to inflation, based on our support for a living wage and its relationship to the minimum wage.

LWVNYS defines a living wage as one that provides sufficient income without government assistance, for food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, education, child care, and a small amount of discretionary income. We believe that the minimum wage should be set close to, but not more than, the living wage.

Reproductive Health

Below are the two reproductive health bills we are focusing on after the budget passes.. They are both ones that our partners on PowHer have been talking about and are responses to the US Supreme Court’s Dobb’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade – and to the plethora of anti-abortion bills being passes in many states

Reproductive Freedom & Equity Program

Establishes the reproductive freedom and equity program to ensure access to abortion care in the state by providing funding to abortion providers, government entities and non-profit organizations whose primary function is to facilitate access to abortion care. This legislation was passed in the Senate and is in committee in the Assembly.

Reproductive Telehealth

Provides certain legal protections for reproductive health service providers who provide legally protected health activities including protection from extradition, arrest and legal proceedings in other states relating to such services; restricts the use of evidence relating to the involvement of a party in providing legally protected health activity to persons located out-of-state. This legislation has passed the Senate and is currently in the Assembly Codes Committee.

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Vivione Marshall and Richard Rifkin, Co-Chairs

The primary effort of the Criminal Justice Committee continues to be initiating proposals and pursuing the advocacy efforts of the State League in this area. In addition, the committee has taken the initiative in creating a statewide data collection project to inform the State League on the subject of voting by those who are incarcerated.

Statewide Data Collection Project

Created and led by a committee member, law students are collecting and analyzing data on the current state of voting while in jail throughout the state. The resulting information will inform the State League with regard to its advocacy on this topic.

Voting While In Jail

Several committee members met with individuals from LetNYVote to discuss possible legislation dealing with voting while in jail. Individual members of the committee have joined with local organizations in the ongoing effort to register detainees in local jails.

Clean Slate

The state Board voted to join the Clean Slate NY Coalition at its meeting in March of 2023. The Clean Slate NY campaign is fighting for a law that will automatically clear a New Yorker's conviction record once they become eligible. The Clean Slate bill would prevent discrimination in housing and offer better job opportunities to previously incarcerated individuals. It was included in the Senate's one house budget, after which individual League chapters issued a "call to action" urging that Assembly members be contacted and urged to support this bill. The Criminal Justice Committee wrote a memo of support for Clean Slate that was submitted by LWVNYS to NYS Senate and Assemblymembers on May 8, 2023. In addition, individual committee members joined local Clean Slate organizations for advocacy and rallies

Intersection With Healthcare Committee

The Chair of the Healthcare Committee joined our committee and presented a proposal to require Medicaid enrollment of those incarcerated 30 days prior to their release. This was included in the State League's budget testimony. Our committee approved the proposal and will advocate for this initiative. This is the first collaboration between our committee and the healthcare committee.

Elder Parole: This bill has been included in the League’s 2023 post-budget lobbying efforts.

Fair And Timely Parole: This bill has been included in the League’s 2023 post-budget lobbying efforts.

RURAL CAUCUS COMMITTEE

Kathleen Stein, Chair

The League of Women Voters New York State Rural Caucus (NYSRC) was formed in the spring of 2020 at the instigation of the St Lawrence County MAL Unit, and in December of 2022 was made an Issue Committee. Our original idea was to create a space where local Leagues in rural areas, or in counties that include large rural areas as well as more urban ones, could share their experiences of doing League work in rural communities. We have succeeded in doing that, and a good deal more.

The NYSRC currently includes members of fourteen local Leagues, representing nineteen counties around the state. Commonly, most League interactions are between the “vertical” levels of the organization, but our bi-monthly zoom meetings have provided a welcome opportunity to connect “horizontally” with our peers around the state to share ideas, information, and encouragement. Since we have had an NYSRC member on the LWVNYS Board for the past two years, and two LWVNYS Board Presidents have regularly attended our meetings, the Caucus has also helped to raise awareness of rural affairs at the state League level. For the first time Rural issues are mentioned in the 2023 editions of the LWVNYS Legislative Agenda brochure and Pre-Budget Advocacy Packet.

Caucus members have been sharing information and experience concerning the following rural problems:

- How can county government help close the rural “digital divide” by providing universal—and affordable-- access to high-speed broadband service? What government funds have become available as a result of the Covid pandemic, and how can they be accessed? How can public awareness accelerate the process?
- How to address the crisis in rural health care? Rural ambulance and emergency services are closing down due to the shortage of funds and the lack of volunteers; fiscally driven “consolidation” has created “maternity deserts” by eliminating maternity wards at many rural hospitals. How can we draw attention to this crisis? How can we publicize and support the good work being done in rural areas by Community Health Centers and similar health care providers?
- The endemic shortage of adequate child care continues to hobble economic activity in persistently poor areas, and it has been exacerbated by the loss of home-based providers during the pandemic. This problem demands greater public awareness. It affects the overall economy of rural areas, but it risks being overlooked or

misunderstood by economically comfortable taxpayers. It therefore tends to be neglected by local politicians.

- We all recognize the imperative of replacing fossil fuels with solar energy and wind power. Economic logic dictates that large projects, generating over 25 megawatts, be sited in under-populated areas. These industrial scale projects, however, raise both environmental and financial issues for small towns. The impact of this necessary transition on rural communities needs to be taken into consideration, both in the interest of fairness and to minimize local opposition. Broad public awareness and civil discussion of the issues is especially important in this realm, since solar projects are under state regulatory jurisdiction rather than local laws: in other words, Home Rule does not apply to industrial scale solar power.

Finally, the NYSRC has already had a modest national impact. Rural Leagues in Texas have formed a Rural Caucus for that state after learning of the NYSRC. Caucus members worked with League members in other states to form a fledgling National Rural Affairs Caucus (RAC). We began with a survey of League members in thirty states to determine what they felt were the most important issues facing their rural areas.

One of the top vote-getters was affordable broadband access. The Digital Equity Concurrence that was passed at the LWVUS Convention in 2023 was a direct result of NYSRC members working for months with League members from CT, NM, MA, and VT to craft, promote and present the Concurrence.

STATE FINANCES: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Marian Bott, Issue Specialist

The 2022-23 legislative year, in a multi-year perspective, will be remembered by public education supporters as the year when, at long last, Foundation Aid was fully funded in the state budget. Foundation Aid, for the uninitiated, is an amount of funding, statewide, which is distributed annually to the state’s school districts for “foundational” support of operating aid in the classroom. It does not include the cost of transporting students, building or repairing school buildings, or providing extra money for students with specialized educational needs. From the League’s perspective, we lobbied for fully-funded Foundation Aid from the very outset of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit filed in 1993, so this is a victory since previous administrations and legislatures were unable to provide adequate funding to fulfill the court order. This brief summary is not intended as a full explanation of Foundation Aid or the lawsuit. The main takeaway is that the League will mark this year as the end of a long lobbying process. Or will it?

As with many legislative victories, this one is temporary. It is temporary because federal, state and local sources of revenue have many near-future competing demands. It is inevitable that Foundation Aid’s value as a percentage of overall student cost will erode, and without vigilance the differences in per-pupil expenditures between wealthier and poorer school districts will widen. Knowing this is likely to happen, the League is supporting the revision of the calculation of Foundation Aid to reflect changes in regional costs, poverty weightings, and weightings for students with special needs.

The League has been supporting efforts to increase civics education in the schools, in keeping with the principles set forth in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit pertaining to the need for an educated citizenry capable of understanding democratic processes and voting procedures. This work will be ongoing, and to that end the League is participating in the Democracy Ready coalition formed by the Center for Educational Equity at Teachers College Columbia University. Among its goals are to see to it that civics curriculum is taught in New York schools throughout New York State.

Charter schools have been an active lobbying issue during this past year, because the Governor introduced legislation to expand the number of charter schools, much to the displeasure of both houses of the Legislature. This was one of the issues that held up the budget for 2023-24. The legislature has agreed to add 14 charter schools in New York City under a provision referred to as the Zombie charter clause. Zombie charters are ones that were closed after having been issued a charter. We opposed an increase in the number of charter schools in this year’s budget when we testified in February. We will continue to monitor the operations of these newly authorized schools as well as existing charter schools.

The League did a major study of charter schools in 2005-2007. One of the concerns of those who participated in the study was that two charter school authorizers (SUNY and the Regents) would ultimately conflict with one another. There is evidence that SUNY’s procedures and guidelines for charter issuance and renewal differ qualitatively from the Regents’ procedures. We are currently watching a bill which would cause SUNY charter applicants to submit to final review by the Regents.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION REPORT

Regina Tillman, Vice President for DEI

"There is no social-change fairy. There is only change made by the hands of individuals."

– Winona LaDuke.

Science has it that most of the energy used on a project is at the front end of it. So it is that we find within our League as well. When we kicked off at the State-level with a workshop in June 2019, we defined our efforts toward creating a more equitable organization as “a journey”. It is no less of an uphill climb today amid the crushing animosity to anything that hopes to enlighten the public on ways of coming together, understanding each other better, and acknowledging the entirety of our collective story. However, considering the length of the ‘bending arc of justice’, it is totally correct to feel like we are, 4 years later, still at the beginning of this journey of change in our League culture.

State-wide, actions just this past year on behalf of NYS League members:

- A virtual workshop held in October 2022 for all State members by authors, Kimberlee Yolanda Williams, and the best-selling author, Debby Irving (2021 multi-workshop presenter for LWVNYS) based on Ms. Williams’ book entitled, *Dear White Woman, Please Come Home*.

- In April 2023, a two-part webinar was presented by Rochester Metro Area LWV “Making Democracy Work” awardees, Kesha James and Shane Wiegand, educators working on an Antiracist Curriculum Project. All members of the LWVNYS were again invited as Kesha James highlighted portions of the curriculum. The LWVNYS DEI was honored to assist Rochester Metro Area LWV in bringing this history forward to members.
- Concluding the day after the nationally designated Native American Heritage Day in November 2022, a 21 Day Racial Equity Indigenous Challenge was engaged in by record number of members in comparison to previously held Challenges. The development of a short guide to conducting “Land Acknowledgements” was added to our task list as well as developing a League statement in support of the dual or alternative use of “Indigenous People’s Day” for Columbus Day.
- In October 2022 the President’s meeting agenda zeroed in on the importance of nominating committees. As Vice President for DEI, I had the privilege of discussing the application of a “DEI Lens” in recruitment of all positions, and particularly for League Boards of Directors.
- I was personally honored to have met the LWVUS President, Dr. Deborah Turner, in her brief visit to Albany in October 2022, accompanying State Board members to the NYS Museum to review archives from the women’s suffrage movement in NYS. After further conversation with Dr. Turner thereafter, an invitation to join the LWVUS DEI Committee was extended. Thus, LWVNYS DEI efforts and results will have an influence at the national LWVUS level as of 2023.
- DEI Virtual Drop-In Meetings continued in the past year for in-depth discussions of DEI-related observations and experiences. On Wednesday, March 8th, we had the pleasure of welcoming a featured guest, Ms. Freddie Hamilton. As President of the Utica/Oneida County NAACP and a Cultural Competency/ Racial Equity Consultant for 12 years, she immensely enhanced our drop-in discussion.
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Organizational Self-Assessment Survey was issued in February 2023 to all local Leagues of LWVNYS and included an invitation to individual members as well. Two years ago, this assessment was applied to several selected local Leagues. This year, we hope to use it to ascertain the growth in awareness, knowledge, skill, and abilities related to DEI implementation throughout the entire State. Our thanks to all who participated!
- At the State Board level, discussions began in 2023 on what “Organizational Equity” is, and what it can look like within our League.
- Successfully initiated the inaugural DEI Award Recognition of local League DEI strategies and work to be included in this June 2023 State Convention Awards Ceremony.
- Evaluated the potential of an established source for “continuous learning” on DEI in conjunction with Leadership Development.
- And DEI Task Force members continued to be instrumental in raising awareness of DEI within their own local Leagues along with assisting in accomplishing various Task Force assignments.

We will be looking forward to working more aggressively in 2023-2024 on:

- Developing a new DEI Action Plan for the State that comes out of the results of the 2023 Organizational DEI Self-Assessment Survey inputs.

- Assigning Task Force members to assist local Leagues, as needed, in developing their own DEI Action Plans.
- Move our resources, both as developed and as obtained, to the LWVNYS website.
- Center DEI on the 4 P’s (policies, procedures, practices, and people) at all levels of our organization so that we collectively get past “performative compliance” to our stated LWVUS DEI policy.
- Engaging our members to aid the adoption of the Antiracist Curriculum Project in local schools.
- Continue to push forth on being a continuous learning organization as well as making the necessary shifts to actualize the LWV as a multicultural, multigenerational, multi-abled, and equitable organization.

The good news is that after 4 years actively on the DEI journey, we see evidence of impact being made within some of our local Leagues as DEI is brought up in conversations with an intentionality that has not been evident before in our organization. And with an “intent” on making change being one of the primary signals of being on the right track, I would say members of the LWVNYS will be doing extremely well in this pursuit of a cultural shift as we proceed into our collective future. As our pioneering members throughout the State continue to grow and to center the important “DEI lens” within all elements of their work, in conjunction with maintaining nonpartisanship, more members will understand the necessity of making the fulfillment of the dream of a “representative democracy” a realized goal for the League and for the country. If interested in having your League represented on the LWVNYS DEI Task Force, the call for the 2023-25 nominations has gone out but it’s not too late! Local Presidents should contact me at your earliest convenience at:

rmt370@gmail.com

LOCAL LEAGUE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Joy Rosenzweig and Kathy Stein, Co-Chairs

The Local League Support Committee (LLSC) was created in 2021 to provide local Leagues with resources and information to help them meet ongoing challenges and maintain or develop long-term sustainability.

Highlights of the Committee’s work since LWV NYS Council in June 2022 include:
Maintaining Presidents’ Google Group: The Presidents’ Google group, initiated by the Local League Support Committee, continues to be a great resource for local Leagues. Leagues have shared information about program planning and LWV social media templates. They have sought support for proposed studies on solid waste management, the voting machine approval process, and Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). One League asked for assistance in surveying jails in NYS to determine the status of voting while incarcerated.

Promoting Nominating Committees: This past summer, the LLSC began getting the word out to local Leagues that Nominating Committees are crucial to strengthening League boards and helping the LWV thrive. We communicated that Nominating Committee work is a year-long activity, and included a cartoon and article in the State Voter, a link to a quiz posted in the presidents’ group, and a discussion with Kate Jankowski (LWVNYS

nominating chair), Regina Tillman (3rd VP DEI), Dare Thompson (President, LWV of Mid-Hudson Region), and Sue Wilson (LWV of Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork) during the October local League presidents’ call. We also posted Nominating Committee tips and resources to the [Membership and Leadership](#) section of the LWVNYS website.

Creating Regional Groups: The Committee set up a Regional Meeting initiative to provide local Leagues with the opportunity to support each other, share ideas, and collaborate. Members of the Committee facilitated Zoom discussions for the five newly created regions: Capitol Region, Central Region, Long Island, Westchester and Rockland Counties, and Western Region/ Southern Tier. Most of the regions focused on issues of membership and leadership. One region also discussed the difficulty with getting candidates to participate in debates, while another focused on communication within the LWV. Highlights of these meetings were presented during the April presidents’ call along with a presentation by a member of the LWV of Oneonta explaining their version of a [Reducing Polarization Project](#) first started by the Cooperstown League. The Committee compiled and disseminated a list of [recruitment and engagement ideas](#) that were generated during the group meetings, and posted them to the Membership and Leadership section of the LWVNYS website.

Going Forward: We will continue to provide resources and assistance to local Leagues. In addition, we will work on facilitating the sharing of ideas and collaboration among Leagues on program and voters service.

Still on our wish list are setting up local League webpages on the LWVNYS website, creating maps that show which Leagues share legislators, and a calendar on the LWVNYS website where local Leagues can post events. We also plan to follow up on other member suggestions such as creating sample new member/board member packets and orientation materials, and providing tips for how to recruit board members.

MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL LEAGUES 2013-2023

LEAGUE NAME	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Albany County	173	192	184	159	153	163	209	187	210	182	186
Allegany & Cattaraugus MAL Unit						20	29	40	41	33	30
Bronxville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Brookhaven	70	65	67	63	63	69	84	82	95	77	80
Broome and Tioga Co.	109	100	100	93	97	97	92	84	67	65	59
Buffalo/Niagara	224	213	193	190	197	210	224	227	223	209	156
Cazenovia	35	32	24	29	32	32	33	35	39	31	36
Central Nassau	35	27	20	20	26	22	27	29	33	28	25
Chautauqua County	88	83	84	88	86	89	122	88	107	67	69

Chemung County (disbanded Jan 2021)	20	20	20	14	14	10	10	9			
Columbia County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Cooperstown Area	40	47	35	47	67	84	92	91	81	77	102
Cortland County	29	24	23	28	31	29	31	25	22	23	25
East Nassau	53	47	51	45	47	39	45	47	48	42	45
Geneva	50	46	38	34	39	42	38	35	39	44	36
Great Neck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				21
Greater Oneida Area (disbanded 2018)	8	7	7	6	5	4	0				
Hamilton (disbanded 2013)	8	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Hamptons (name change 2019 to LWV of Hamptons, Shelter Island and North Fork)	124	133	125	116	119	117	126	144	134	112	103
Harrison (disbanded 2017)	34	36	39	35	29	0	0				
Huntington	85	89	88	97	69	70	71	64	95	71	60
Larchmont/Mamaroneck	76	83	74	108	107	71	88	86	88	83	88
Long Beach (disbanded 2022)	47	27	31	33	41	10	16	18	11	6	
LWVNYS MALs	89	57	36	33	31	52	68	17	11	11	9
Mid Hudson Region	91	90	92	92	86	120	141	127	142	153	160
New Castle	92	86	84	94	112	102	104	97	100	85	74
New Rochelle	77	74	59	45	56	51	38	58	69	49	60
New York City	205	199	223	217	275	350	350	289	303	268	275
North Country	42	52	43	40	42	33	33	31	50	44	40
North East Westchester	37	28	31	31	35	44	48	29	32	36	53
Oneonta	48	46	38	41	35	36	32	33	10	10	25
Orange MAL Unit (disbanded June 2011)	0		0	0	0	0	0	17	18		
Orleans County (disbanded 2014)	14	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Port Washington/Manhasset	118	142	128	100	118	132	135	105	113	116	104
Putnam County	5	5	5	9	12	19	22	29	29	29	29
Rensselaer County	77	81	80	81	76	101	98	97	108	106	105
Rivertowns	53	73	75	86	89	99	101	115	114	110	105
Rochester Metro	131	132	145	139	137	138	164	141	163	149	120
Rockland County	50	34	37	27	32	32	29	23	20	21	24
Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester	37	51	57	47	54	43	45	43	50	41	45
Saratoga County	150	161	130	141	146	205	230	218	226	202	212

Saugerties (merged with Mid Hudson 2017)	24	24	17	15	14	0	0				
Scarsdale	203	220	216	205	201	209	188	192	175	159	176
Schenectady County	132	129	126	134	138	136	149	138	145	134	122
Schuyler (disbanded 2021)	21	21	17	14	10	11	12	11	11		
Shelter Island (merged with Hamptons 2019)	46	42	44	44	40	42	31				
Smithtown	37	36	28	29	30	34	37	36	42	41	38
Somers (disbanded 2017)	105	99	87	94	59	0	0				
Southern Westchester (disbanded)	19	14	0	0	0	0	0				
Southwest Nassau (disbanded in 2022)	82	76	66	50	34	21	18	14	16	5	
St. Lawrence MAL Unit	21	13	7	8	6	13	10	22	22	27	14
Steuben and Chemung Counties (2021)	24	24	25	26	26	18	18	18	16	15	16
Syracuse Metro.	102	100	90	71	69	73	76	80	91	94	104
Tompkins County	103	90	82	92	78	74	64	64	74	77	79
Utica Metro. Area	57	54	56	44	52	52	56	53	56	58	56
Warren County (disbanded 2018)	9	13	0	0	0	0	0				
Wayne (Disbanded)	17	13	10	10	6	6	0				
White Plains	134	145	125	117	121	124	126	128	101	107	79
Totals	3760	3695	3462	3381	3442	3548	3760	3516	3640	3297	3245

YOUTH TASK FORCE

Crystal Joseph and Nick Doran, Co-Chairs

The League’s programs continue to work with students across the state and support our youth as they prepare for upcoming elections or are interested in sharing knowledge about voter education, rights and advocacy. As we continue to help prepare future generations of voters, our League members continue to think of creative ways to develop interesting events, work with local educators on curricula and partner with other advocacy groups that share in the commitment to advance the conversation on civic preparedness. Our organization continues to face the challenges of youth disenfranchisement based on the impacts of pandemic, rises in the cost of living and a myriad of competing issues that make our outreach to communities that need our help the most, ever so complicated; however, we persevere.

The Youth Task Force launched the Youth Programming Toolkit in August 2022, which can be found on the State’s website. The Toolkit features 10 examples from around New

York of local League programming, four PowerPoint presentations, and example materials for engaging and educating youth in voter registration. Programming examples include a wide-range of program types for levels ranging from primary school to college. To help spread the news of the Toolkit’s publication, the Youth Task Force held a call in October. The call featured three local Leagues to discuss their youth programming. We are still gathering programs for the Toolkit, so please continue to send in new and old programming not in the Toolkit so we can have an even more comprehensive toolkit in 2023!

This spring (May 2023) we are excited to reinvigorate our core civic and democracy-in-action learning experience, Students Inside Albany (SIA). Our longstanding program serves as an exemplary model of political inclusion and action civics through the engaged citizenry, our selected student ambassadors. We welcome our students back, in person, to the Capital region this year. Students, families, League members, educators and our local elected supporters are all eager to hear from our student participants and continue to support our mission around collaboration and scholarship in civic learning through our voter coalition of social and political involvement. The Leagues’ influence on civic values is something that we are all very proud of and it means that we are committed to helping our youth develop an understanding of civics through all our network partners. And despite the differences in political standing, we are acknowledged for our deliberate dialogue on civic education and learning for all who need our support.

LWVNYS Financial Report As of April 30, 2023

	July 1, 2022 - Apr 30, 2023	2022-23 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4000 - Member Support		
4000-1 - PMP Income	60,611.19	60,458.95
4002-1 - Memberships/Dues	2,887.55	3,600.00
4010-1 - Spec Gifts From Local Leagues	14,538.56	2,000.00
4016-1 - Board Contributions	1,154.24	1,000.00
4018-1 - Member Contributions	28,640.13	25,000.00
4025-1 - Community/Corporate Donations	101.00	0.00
4026 - In Kind Donations	0.00	100.00
4150 - Direct Mail Income		
4151-1 - Direct Mail- Feb mailing	8,164.87	16,000.00
4154-1 - AF-June mailing	6,930.45	8,000.00
Total 4150 - Direct Mail Income	15,095.32	24,000.00
Total 4000 - Member Support	123,027.99	116,158.95
4110 - Development		
4111 - Election Night Reporting	9,415.00	2,800.00
Total 4110 - Development	9,415.00	2,800.00

4120 · Projects/Programs		
4125 · Program Reimbursement	148,606.74	0.00
4126 · EF Admin. Reimbursement	51,056.05	
4120 · Projects/Programs - Other	0.00	<u>266,389.23</u>
Total 4120 · Projects/Programs	199,662.79	266,389.23
4123 · Voter Services	3,107.38	5,000.00
4130 · Advocacy		
4130-2 · Legislative agendas	0.00	<u>100.00</u>
Total 4130 · Advocacy	0.00	100.00
4300 · State Meetings		
4300-1 · State Convention Income	11,430.00	25,000.00
4310-1 · Advocacy Day	412.60	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total 4300 · State Meetings	11,842.60	26,500.00
4400 · Publication Sales Income	2,733.50	2,000.00
4500 · Product Sales	919.00	2,500.00
4600 · Other Income		
4600-1 · Interest Income	4.15	15.00
4691-1 · Speaker Fees	250.00	
Total 4600 · Other Income	254.15	15.00
Total Income	350,962.41	421,463.18
Expense		
5000-1 · PMP National	1,615.13	928.00
5020-1 · Mal Unit Support	45.00	434.00
5120 · Projects/Programs Expenses		
5123 · Voter Services	8,727.43	<u>5,500.00</u>
Total 5120 · Projects/Programs Expenses	8,727.43	5,500.00
5130 · Advocacy Expenses		
5132 · Legislative Agenda brochures	0.00	150.00
5133-1 · Lobby Reports	0.00	<u>325.00</u>
Total 5130 · Advocacy Expenses	0.00	475.00
5163 · Development Expenses-		
5163-1 · Revenue Share-Elec. Night Rep.	8,065.00	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total 5163 · Development Expenses-	8,065.00	2,500.00
5200-2 · Administrative Expenses		
5220 · Professional Fees		
5221-1 · Audit	8,750.00	10,000.00
5220 · Professional Fees - Other	5,966.50	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total 5220 · Professional Fees	14,716.50	22,000.00
5230 · Technology		
5230-1 · Repairs & Maintenance- Equip.	1,373.75	2,000.00
5230-2 · Website Hosting	123.84	250.00
5230-3 · Website Maintenance	2,420.00	5,000.00
5230-7 · Outlook License (Old-Email)	481.30	842.40
5230-8 · Little Green Light(GiftWorks)	135.00	

5230-91 · Zoom	388.90	600.00
Total 5230 · Technology	4,922.79	8,692.40
5240 · Supplies		
5240-1 · General Office	1,064.64	1,000.00
5240-2 · Copying	111.81	150.00
5240-6 · Printing	3,222.09	2,000.00
5240 · Supplies - Other	789.33	
Total 5240 · Supplies	5,187.87	3,150.00
5250 · Postage	1,899.30	1,500.00
5265 · Travel	1,843.76	100.00
5266 · Facilities/Lodging/Meals	5,867.42	2,000.00
5269 · Dues, Fee & Subscriptions	514.99	300.00
5270 · Insurance		
5271-1 · Directors & Officers	333.00	340.00
5282-1 · General Liability Insurance	1,506.88	2,600.00
Total 5270 · Insurance	1,839.88	2,940.00
5296-1 · Checking Account	15.00	
5296-6 · Credit Card Processing Expenses	880.36	850.00
5200-2 · Administrative Expenses - Other	50.00	
Total 5200-2 · Administrative Expenses	37,737.87	41,532.40
5200 · Payroll Related Expenses		
5200-1 · Salaries- General Admin.	203,298.63	278,400.00
5201-1 · Paid Time Off Expense	24,477.57	
5202-1 · Employee Benefits		
5209-1 · IRA Employer Contribution Exp	6,401.14	8,313.00
5210-1 · Employer Paid Payroll Taxes	18,305.88	21,297.60
5214-1 · Health/Dental Insurance	13,423.71	23,395.68
5215-1 · Disability Insurance	97.42	1,989.00
5219-1 · Workers Compensation	744.35	994.50
5202-1 · Employee Benefits - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 5202-1 · Employee Benefits	38,972.50	55,989.78
5200 · Payroll Related Expenses - Other	1,219.02	1,404.00
Total 5200 · Payroll Related Expenses	267,967.72	335,793.78
5280-1 · Rent Expense	25,125.00	28,800.00
5300 · Meetings		
5301-1 · State Convention/Council	180.00	2,000.00
5310-1 · Lobby Day- Expenses	0.00	1,500.00
Total 5300 · Meetings	180.00	3,500.00
5400 · Publications Expense	226.48	1,000.00
5500 · Products Expense	707.13	1,000.00
Total Expense	350,396.76	421,463.18
Net Ordinary Income	565.65	0.00
Net Income	565.65	0.00

LWVNYS Balance Sheet As of April 30, 2023

	Apr 30, 23	Apr 30, 22
Assets		
Checking Accounts	28,508.81	44,809.43
Accounts Receivable	33,914.19	24,466.86
Total Other Current Assets	6,740.68	39,969.72
Total Current Assets	69,163.68	109,246.01
Fixed Assets		
Property, Equipment, Software, Furnishings	24,560.65	24,560.65
Accumulated Depreciation	-24,560.65	-24,560.65
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
Total Assets	69,163.68	109,246.01
Liabilities		
Total Accounts Payable	1,958.47	6,943.21
Total Credit Cards	156.25	1,708.90
Total Other Current Liabilities	18,490.73	4,492.13
Total Current Liabilities	20,605.45	13,144.24
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	-1,274.85	0.00
Retained Earnings	36,665.81	100,042.90
Local League Services	12,601.62	9,248.57
Net Income	565.65	-13,189.70
Total Equity	48,558.23	96,101.77
Total Liabilities & Equity	69,163.68	109,246.01

LWVNYS Education Foundation Balance Sheet As of April 30, 2023

	Apr 30, 23	Apr 30, 22
Assets		
Current Assets		
Checking Account	78,423.87	53,077.97
Savings Account	5,962.85	35,952.44
Investment Accounts		
Endowed Funds	812,559.41	828,332.85
Other Investment Accts	678,490.72	664,444.40
Accounts Receivable	6,897.50	2,100.00
Other Current Assets	14,274.87	10,899.49
Total Current Assets	1,596,609.22	1,594,807.15
Fixed Assets	316.00	127,134.12
Other Assets	161,375.24	142,248.23
Total Assets	1,758,300.46	1,864,189.50
Liabilities and Equity		
Total Liabilities	40,099.76	20,414.47
Equity		
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	110,530.32	110,530.32
Permanently Restricted	244,820.66	244,820.66
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,354,392.52	512,905.23
Net Income	8,457.20	975,518.82
Total Equity	1,718,200.70	1,843,775.03
Total Liabilities and Equity	1,758,300.46	1,864,189.50

The League of Women Voters of New York State keeps local Leagues strong by:

ADVOCACY

- overseeing state studies for new or updated positions
- lobbying at the state level
- maintaining coalition partnerships with many organizations for stronger advocacy efforts.
- coordinating Advocacy Education and Training Days for members statewide
- organizing conference calls on current issues open to all members statewide

EDUCATION

- funding for each local League to send one student free to Students Inside Albany
- providing speakers on current issues for community events
- developing ready-made Powerpoint educational presentations and briefing papers on various “hot topics” for community presentations and discussions

VOTER SERVICE

- paying license fees for all local Leagues and having staff support for www.vote411.org
- creating low-cost Voter Guides
- hosting statewide candidate events
- providing ready-made presentations on issues for statewide studies and voter education

SOCIAL MEDIA/VISIBILITY

- maintaining an up-to-date website with links and resources for running and promoting local Leagues
- supporting a Facebook page and “Liking” any Facebook page of our local Leagues
- sending State Board Updates and State Voters monthly and including local League news
- providing spokesperson to media statewide on state issues
- developing template Letters to the Editor for local Leagues to submit to local media

LEADERSHIP/TRAINING

- advising local Leagues on a one-on-one basis
- coordinating regional training workshops across the state
- organizing state Convention
- nurturing and giving start-up funding for MAL units

ADMINISTRATION

- hosting grants management accounts for each local League in state Education Foundation so you can accept 501©3 donations at no charge (some other state Leagues charge for this service)
- providing insurance for events held by local Leagues at no charge

- creating an easy local League online giving link you can use to accept tax-deductible donations online
- assisting some local Leagues in managing their finances
- seeking grants and other funding to share with local Leagues

2023 Convention Delegates
As of May 25, 2023

Marjorie	McIntosh	Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties MAL Unit
Marie	Campbell	LWV of Albany County
Anne	Erling	LWV of Albany County
Christine	Florez	LWV of Albany County
Deborah	Liebman	LWV of Albany County
MaryKate	Owens	LWV of Albany County
Patricia	Sibilia	LWV of Albany County
Carole	Huston	LWV of Brookhaven
Margaret	Olness	LWV of Brookhaven
Cathy	Penna	LWV of Brookhaven
Nicholas	Doran	LWV of Broome and Tioga Co.
Ramona	Gallagher	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Barbara	Gunderson	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Amy	Moritz	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Lori	Robinson	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Alberta	Roman	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Ann	Leiter	LWV of Central Nassau
Patricia	Meadows	LWV of Central Nassau
Mary	Croxton	LWV of Chautauqua County
Pat	Kirell	LWV of Chautauqua County
Maureen	Murray	LWV of Cooperstown Area
Kristin	Pullyblank	LWV of Cooperstown Area
Stephanie	Bauer	LWV of Cooperstown Area; LWV of Oneonta
Kim	Cameron	LWV of Cortland County
Sheila	Cohen	LWV of Cortland County
Peggy	Stein	LWV of East Nassau
Barbara	Epstein	LWV of East Nassau; LWV of Geneva
Elise	Antonelli	LWV of Huntington
Loretta	Chillemi	LWV of Huntington
Barbara	Kurek	LWV of Huntington
Cynthia	Bell	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Dare	Thompson	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Sheila	Bernson	LWV of New Castle
Diane	Burrows	LWV of New York City
Lulu	Friesdat	LWV of New York City

Deborah	McEvilly	LWV of New York City
Helen	Meltzer-Krim	LWV of New York City
Karol	Robinson	LWV of New York City
Kai	Rosenthal	LWV of New York City
Bella	Wang	LWV of New York City
Shelly	Warwick	LWV of New York City
Jane	Colvin	LWV of New York State
Katherine	Doran	LWV of New York State
Patricia	Garrett	LWV of New York State
Judie	Gorenstein	LWV of New York State
Sally	Robinson	LWV of New York State
Nancy	Rosenthal	LWV of New York State
Joy	Rosenzweig	LWV of New York State
Regina	Tillman	LWV of New York State
Susan	Ferris	LWV of Northeast Westchester
Bruce	Rights	LWV of Northeast Westchester
Judith B.	Esterquest	LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset
Regina	Goutevenier	LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset
Michele	Lamberti	LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset
Shirley	Buel	LWV of Rensselaer County
Noreen	McKee	LWV of Rensselaer County
Judy	Meyer	LWV of Rensselaer County
Barbara	Grosh	LWV of Rochester Metro
Carolyn	Massey	LWV of Rochester Metro
Theresa	McFarland-Porter	LWV of Rochester Metro
Carrie- Michele	Shivers	LWV of Rye-Rye Brook
Christine	Alexander	LWV of Saratoga County
Lori	Dawson	LWV of Saratoga County
Pamela	King-Hall	LWV of Saratoga County
Joanna	Lasher	LWV of Saratoga County
Linda	McKenney	LWV of Saratoga County
Ann Marie	Pendergast	LWV of Saratoga County
Alissa	Baum	LWV of Scarsdale
Ellen	Daviero	LWV of Schenectady County
Joan	Fucillo	LWV of Schenectady County
Karen	Anderson	LWV of Smithtown
Ellen	Harte	LWV of Smithtown
Robin	Browning- Bolewski	LWV of Syracuse Metro.
Kim	Margosian	LWV of Syracuse Metro.
Chanel	Turnquest	LWV of Syracuse Metro.
Susan	Wilson	LWV of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Forkand the North Fork

Helen	Nerska	LWV of the North Country
Diana	Wardell	LWV of the North Country
Subomi	Macauley	LWV of the Rivertowns
Ann	Scholl	LWV of the Rivertowns
Susan	Schwarz	LWV of the Rivertowns
Sally	Grubb	LWV of Tompkins County
Megan	Nettleton	LWV of Tompkins County
Kellyann	Speiser	LWV of Tompkins County
Meg	Higgerson	LWV Of Utica Metropolitan Area
Dawn	LaGuerre	LWV Of Utica Metropolitan Area
Doris	Dingott	LWV of White Plains
Barbara	Shore	LWV of White Plains
Nancy	Agen	St.Lawrence MAL
Patricia	Gibbons	Suffolk County ILO
Kathy	Meany	Westchester County ILO

Visitors and Observers
As of May 25, 2023

Nancy	Marr	LWV of Brookhaven
Susan	Cushman	LWV of Central Nassau
Alia	Chowdhury	LWV of Cortland County
Douglas	Thompson	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Deborah	Marr	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Kathy	OConnor	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Leslie	Simons	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Kathleen	Stell	LWV of Rensselaer County
Lin	Murphy	LWV of Saratoga
Julie	Weiner	LWV of the Rivertowns
Nancy	Ketz	LWV of Utica/Rome

Volunteers
As of May 25, 3023

Alycia	Bacon	LWV of Albany
Audrey	Capers	LWV of Albany
Lars	Dahl	LWV of Albany
Pat	Maxon	LWV of Albany
Lacey	Putnam	LWV of Albany
Joanne	Shawhan	LWV of Albany
Kathleen	Stell	LWV of Rensselaer County
Patricia	Partello	LWV of Saratoga County
Virginia	Fletcher	LWV of Saratoga County

Mary Lou	Classen	LWV of Saratoga County
Kathleen	Koebrich	LWV of Saratoga County
Barb	Thomas	LWV of Saratoga County
Karen	Chisholm	LWV of Syracuse

Parliamentarian

Jill	Nagy	LWV of Rensselaer County
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Staff

Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director
Erica Smitka, Deputy Director
Milly Czerwinski, Communications and Development Associate
Aimee Messier, Finance Administrator